



EAST HAVEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

APRIL CAPONE ALMON

Mayor

Re:
Senate Bill 27
Senate Bill 443

March 22, 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to speak before you on a topic that is vital to the people of East Haven, New Haven and the State of Connecticut.

Last year Mayor DeStefano and I took the historic step of ending over fifty years of litigation between our towns. The agreement we signed to set parameters around TWEED New Haven Airport and not only ended litigation but for the first time defined what both towns need to work together.


Funding for the \$5million bond issue is vital to the future of the airport as well as both towns involved. This funding will allow the Airport Authority to follow through on a part of the agreement which promised a 'good neighbor program' to assist residents living in the flight path. The prospect of the 'Good Neighbor Program' has begun changing the culture of a community that for over fifty years saw the airport as an enemy. The success of this program is an integral part of the agreement and without it the agreement itself would be null and void, essentially sending both towns back to court.

In addition, the cities of New Haven and East Haven have both made significant investments in the success of TWEED, be that with tax dollars or community support. \$1.5million of the bond issue has been earmarked for TWEED New Haven Airport to purchase land from the Town of East Haven. That revenue was incorporated into our 2009-2010 budget. Without it the taxpayers of East Haven will face a significant financial hardship that our financially strapped town cannot overcome.

Please help us carry out the promise that Mayor DeStefano and I made to the Airport Authority, our tax payers and each other. Please ensure the success of both cities and TWEED New Haven Airport by assisting us with the funding we need.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Mayor April Capone Almon